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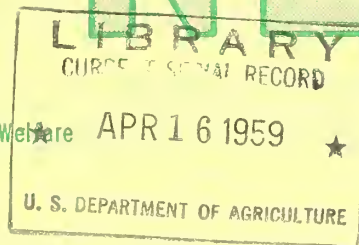
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Cap. 2
We must open wider the doors of opportunity....
for the good of our country and all our people"
President Eisenhower

NEWS

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Committee for RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Under Secretary, Department of the Interior
Under Secretary, Department of Agriculture (Chairman)
Under Secretary, Department of Commerce
Under Secretary, Department of Labor
Under Secretary, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Administrator, Small Business Administration
Member, Council of Economic Advisers



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Of special interest are the following recent program developments:

--A full-scale "rural development workshop" for State and county program leaders will be held in West Virginia, May 11-15, the Committee for Rural Development Program announced.

--Four States launched pilot projects to increase employment and other technical services available to rural communities.

--New York State started a development project in Oneida County, part of a State-wide drive to improve opportunities for low-income rural and urban people.

--An influential group of national farm, business, and educational leaders reported that the Rural Development Program should be expanded to combat "the waste of human resources" in many of our rural areas.

--Business investment companies in two rural areas received loans from the Small Business Administration, marking the start of a program that can have a big impact on rural development.

WESTON, WEST VIRGINIA SITE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

West Virginia's Jackson's Mill 4-H Camp near Weston will be the site of a 30-State work conference on the Rural Development Program, May 11-15, the Committee for Rural Development Program has announced.

Purpose of the workshop is (1) to provide "how-to-do-it" information for State and local leaders responsible for carrying forward the Rural Development Program; (2) to evaluate experiences in the program to date, including successes and major stumbling blocks.

States taking part in the program, it is expected, will each send approximately five representatives to the meeting. Federal and State agency personnel will serve as instructors and resource persons during the workshop.

This is one of a series of periodic reports on Rural Development Program activities of business, farm, civic, government and other community leadership working together. If you have information that might be of interest to those participating in the program or you wish to receive this Newsletter, address communications to the Editor, Rural Development Program News, Office of Information, Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

STATE LABOR AGENCIES, EXTENSION
COOPERATE ON PILOT COMMUNITY
EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS

To increase employment services available to small rural areas, the U. S. Labor Department and cooperating State employment and extension agencies early this year launched pilot programs in selected areas of Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. The special projects will be closely coordinated with existing Rural Development work.

Under the Labor Department program, manpower, job development, and other specialists will be assigned to these areas. They will work with extension and other personnel to determine job needs. They will also assist farm, business, and other local leaders in setting long-range, realistic goals for income improvement.

Experience in the pilot areas will help employment agency officials throughout the country put together more effective employment services for small rural communities.

Areas involved in the pilot projects are the Batesville trading area in Arkansas, several south central Kentucky counties, Grainger and surrounding counties in Tennessee, and Price County, Wisconsin.

CORNELL STARTS RURAL DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT IN ROME-UTICA AREA

Under a grant from the Governor's Committee on Low Incomes, Cornell University has inaugurated a pilot program to improve rural living on small farms in Oneida County, New York.

Of particular interest is the economic situation of this county, which contains the Rome-Utica industrial area, but also many low income commercial farm operators.

A special extension agent has been assigned to the Oneida project, which is being carried forward in three steps: (1) Determining present situation of people on small farms in the area; (2) formulating a program to meet their special needs; (3) evaluating the project.

NPA REPORT CALLS FOR
EXPANDED PROGRAM

More emphasis in the Rural Development Program should be put on education and vocational industrial training, special supervised credit, job information, and economic research, according to a statement released in February by the National Planning Association Agriculture Committee.

The committee, whose statement is titled "Rural Low-Income and Rural Development Programs in the South," is made up of nationally-known businessmen, farm leaders, and scholars.

In their statement, committee members praise the Rural Development Program as a program "for that sector of agriculture which has been so long neglected by public policy."

Commenting that "industrial-urban development of rural areas greatly hastens readjustments needed to achieve higher productivity and higher incomes," the committee urges: Greater support for state industrial development commissions; expansion of power facilities; improved job information services; location of defense plants in rural areas; and types of education that will stimulate economic development.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION

(Based on reports of rural area development throughout the Nation, including pilot counties and others.)

Tennessee: Hardin County, one of the first counties to participate in the Rural Development Program, will be the site of a 1,500-employee wood pulp mill scheduled for completion in 1961, according to reports of the State Industrial and Agricultural Development Commission.

Minnesota: The State's Business Development Newsletter reports that sale of stock in a State-wide business development corporation "went better in the country towns out through the State" than it did in the big cities.

Alabama: A brisk new industry has sprung up in the northern part of the State utilizing sawmill slabs which are converted into chips for industrial use by some half dozen small plants.

North Carolina: Farmers and businessmen in Bertie County, an RD county in eastern North Carolina, financed an up-to-date farm produce market which last season handled \$150,000 worth of sweetpotatoes and watermelons.

Mississippi: According to a leading banker in Tippah County, a recent cotton crop failure had far less impact in the county than similar crop failures in the past due to progress in dairying and the growth of small industries throughout the area in the last few years. Tippah County is participating in the Rural Development Program.

Pennsylvania: Fayette County's Rural Development Committee, recently reorganized and broadened, has issued a comprehensive handbook "Cooperating for A Greater Fayette County," telling what each agency and organization can contribute to accomplishing program plans.

Oregon: With the help of Rural Development Program committee members, Indians in Lincoln County have revived their old-time industry of basket weaving, utilizing markets established by the committee along tourist routes.

North Dakota: The State's dynamic Economic Development Commission recently initiated a "community betterment plan" with more than 70 specialists available to assist communities. Local development corporations in the State have grown from 2 to 24 since 1957.

Maine: Establishment of a new hardboard mill by the Washington County Rural Development Committee will add 50 jobs to the county payroll, the committee reports.

Arkansas: More than 750 additional telephones are being installed in rural homes in Madison County as a result of work by the Rural Development Subcommittee on Public Facilities, which encouraged local phone companies to obtain REA loans for the project.

SBA SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT
PROGRAM GETS UNDERWAY

Approval of the first two loans to local development companies under a new program of great potential benefit to rural communities was announced February 20 by the U. S. Small Business Administration.

The development companies are the Wagener Holding Company, Wagener, S.C., and the Barstow Industrial Development Company, Catersville, Ga. Wagener received \$96,000; Barstow \$62,000.

Under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, SBA is authorized to make loans of up to \$250,000 to local development companies which plan to use the funds to assist specific small business concerns. The loans may be used by the development companies for plant construction, conversion or expansion, including the acquisition of land.

You can learn more about this program through SBA's field offices in major cities throughout the country.

RURAL RESOURCE LEAFLETS
REACH 350,000 MARK

Some 350,000 copies of all seven publications in the new "Rural Resource Leaflet" series have been printed to date, according to the Committee for Rural Development Program, issuing authority for the series.

Written in a popular style, the publications deal with programs and services promoting rural economic development and social welfare. They are also designed to encourage community action in these fields. Following are titles and descriptions of leaflets issued in the series:

No. 1. Rural Development Program, Revised May 1958, a brief explanation of the program, aims, and progress.

No. 2. Forests in Rural Development, October 1957, discussing in layman's language the high income potential in proper forest management and marketing.

No. 3. Co-ops Have a Place in Rural Community Progress, May 1958, how farmers' buying and marketing cooperatives can promote area economic health.

No. 4. How OASI Benefits Your Community, September 1958, tells about an important source of rural income -- social security payments.

No. 5. Using Your Community's Health Resources, August 1958, a listing of health programs and some ideas for citizen action to improve health.

No. 6. Small Business, A Keystone of Rural Area Development, October 1958, describes the growing importance of business development in rural progress, and some things to do to promote business and industry.

No. 7. Credit Principles, A Guide for Rural Communities, February 1959, contains a down-to-earth analysis of how credit can help farmers improve their operations, and how too much credit unwisely used may destroy a farm operation.

To order copies, write the Editor, Rural Development Program News, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.